



Be still for a few minutes every day this Advent season and wonder, “God, what are you doing in me?” Simply sit and wait. God is doing the work; your job is to be present, and the redirecting of your will and attention will be your preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Welcome & Announcements

(please sign the red friendship pad & pass along your row)

LET US WORSHIP

**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM! O COME, LET US ADORE HIM! (stand in body or spirit)
O COME, LET US ADORE CHRIST THE LORD!*

PSALM 25 *(all read the bold)*

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame.*

Make your ways known to me, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions.

For the sake of your goodness and steadfast love, remember me, O Lord.

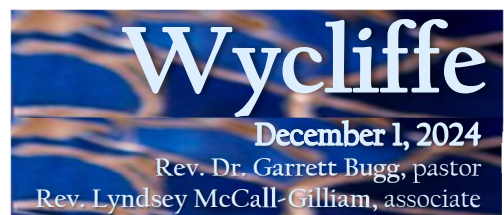
**All the paths of the Lord are filled with love and faithfulness
for those who keep God’s covenant and decrees.**

***HYMN 107 “AWAKE, AWAKE & GREET THE NEW MORN”** *(stand in body or spirit and sing)*

*~ *Share the Peace of Christ ~
Welcome & Announcements*

Children’s Time with the Pastors

~ WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~



WOMEN IN THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH (Matthew 1)



TABOR

From Genesis 38 ~ Judah had three sons: Er, Oman, and Shelah. Judah found a wife for Er whose name was Tabor, but in the Lord's sight, Er was wicked so the Lord put him to death. Following the custom, Judah gave Tabor to second-son Onan to carry the family line, but Onan refused since the child would not be considered his own, so the Lord put him to death.

Judah promised Tabor that youngest-son Shelah would be her husband when he grew up, and she lived as widow in Judah's home to wait. But when Shelah grew up, she was not given to him. When Judah's wife died, and he ended his grieving, he sought a prostitute. To secure her future, Tabor dressed as one, covered her face and sat on the road to Timnah where she knew he would pass by.

A Reflection ~

When you are surrounded by broken things,
when you find yourself in a place of
devastation and discouragement,
take heart.

Blessed are you, for you have been blessed by the Spirit
to do the work of love among ruins.

Blessed are you who mend the shattered,
build up what's been torn down
and stand with light and hope amid the rubble.

A TIME OF CONFESSION (read the bold)

Trusting in God's tender mercy,
**we confess that our lives are
like barren trees in winter.**

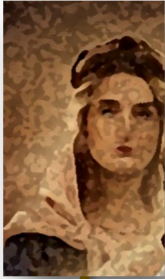
We do not always hear - or accept - your word
and are unable to bear fruits of love & compassion.

Forgive us when we ignore those in distress.
Be born in us again,
that by your grace we may bear your light.



HYMN 314 "LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS" (remain seated & sing v. 1 only)

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE & PARDON . . . And all say **Thanks be to God.**



RAHAB

Joshua 2 ~ After Moses died, God told his aide Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan River into the land God has promised. As the Israelites prepared for the crossing, Joshua sent spies ahead to Jericho.

The spies found the house of Rahab, a prostitute, and stayed there. But when the king of Jericho learned of the spies he sent word to Rahab to bring them out. She told him that they left before the city gate was closed for nightfall and she had no idea where they went, but she had secretly hidden them on her roof under stalks of flax.

A Reflection ~

*The Holy One who holds the universe in strong and gentle hands
also holds us, cares for us, accompanies us, is with us.*

*In death or life, in joy or sorrow,
the Compassionate One walks with us, and gives us the life we have.
A life holy, precious, and worthy of wonder,
no matter how long or pretty,
for the promise is that it will be holy.
Graciously given, mysteriously blessed.*



RUTH

Ruth 3 ~ Boaz took Ruth to be his wife and she conceived and gave birth to a son. The women of the village said to her mother-in-law Naomi, "Praise be to the Lord who has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he come famous throughout Israel! And they named him Obed who was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

A Reflection ~

I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you there will be rest.

*I can tell you that you'll know strange graces
that come to our aid only on a road such as this,
that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength
and come alongside us to lean toward our ear
and whisper our name: Beloved.*

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. B. Harlan

Born to set thy people free . . .



Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11 ~ In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent the entire Israelite army to destroy the Ammonites, but David remained in Jerusalem, and one evening, walking along his roof, he saw a very beautiful woman bathing and sent someone to find out who she was. “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite,” he was told. But David sent someone to bring her to him, and she became pregnant.

David had her husband return from battle so he could sleep with his wife and claim this unborn child, but Uriah was an honorable man and refused to do so while his men were still on the battlefield, so David conspired to have him placed at the front of the battle, and Uriah the Hittite was killed. When Bathsheba heard this, she mourned for him. But after the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house and she became his wife. All that David had done displeased the Lord.

A Reflection ~

When you despair that your life is small (**insignificant**),
when you grieve that your life is troubled (**or a mess**),
when you doubt your life’s benefit to the universe,
remember that no matter your faults
(**or your last name or where you were born**),
regardless of your disappointments
(**failures, broken promises**)
you are more than this one individual flesh:
you are part of this vast, wondrous humanity,
this glorious Creation,
part of God’s healing of the world.
Your life, your whole life, is beautiful and worthy,
(**Holy**)
and belongs to God.

HYMN 92 “WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME” (remain seated & sing **v.1** only)



THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

followed by **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (on the screen)

MARY



Luke 1 ~ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. Her name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God and will give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

A Reflection ~

*In the shadow of history, their light shines,
women of unwavering resolve, each path unique.
In the corners of time, their stories pulse;
echoes of strength, courage, and hope.
Unseen by many, their legacies endure, pillars of faith
in the tapestry of redemption from generation to generation.*



***HYMN 100 "MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT"** (sing v.1, 2, & 4 only)

***THE BENEDICTION**



*Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee & conversation
(to the left as you leave the sanctuary)*

GIVING TO THE MISSION & MINISTRY OF WYCLIFFE

*Giving is a natural overflow of a heart that is grateful for Jesus, who gave everything for us.
A basket is available on the table as you leave the sanctuary for contributions of checks
or cash. A secure link for electronic giving is available on the church's website at
www.wycliffepresbyterian.org*



The chancel flowers today are given to the Glory of God
by Bob Prestridge in memory of his Mom, and all that she taught him

Upcoming Week—December 1-7

TODAY: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:00 am (Zoom/209)

TODAY: CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10:10 am (Ed. Wing)

TODAY: MIDDLE & H.S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS from 11 to 11:20 am (room 108)

TODAY: MUSIC MAKERS from 11 to 11:20 am (music room)

TODAY: HOLIDAY BASKET COLLECTION & ANGEL TREE CONTINUES

TUESDAY: PASTORS LUNCH OUT at 12:15 pm (New River Taphouse~1716 Pleasure House)

WEDNESDAY: ADULT SMALL GROUP at 9:30 am (room 209)

SATURDAY: DECK THE HALLS at 9:30 am (WPC)



On the Horizon

December 8: Holiday Brass Concert at 4 pm (sanctuary)

December 8: Youth Group Christmas Caroling from 5 to 7:30 pm (meet at WPC)

December 14: Men's Breakfast & Study at 7:30 am (Sunrise Cafe)

December 14: Church Work Day at 9 am (WPC)

December 15: Children's Christmas Pageant during worship (sanctuary)

December 15: Fellowship Cookie Swap after worship (fellowship hall)

December 16: Ladies Christmas Party at 6:30 pm (Betty Oliver's home)

December 17: Ladies Lunch Out at 12:15 pm (Westminster Canterbury)

December 22: Yuletide Tunes & Tastings from 5 to 6:30 pm (Ballyhoos)

December 24: Christmas Eve Children's Service at 3 pm (sanctuary)

December 24: Candlelight, Carols, and Communion at 5 pm (sanctuary)

Poinsettia Orders are due by *TODAY!*

Cost: \$15 per white flower

Submit your order & dedication in E-news, Narthex sign-up, or email the church office! Make checks payable to Wycliffe; marked "poinsettia".



On Friday, Nov. 22 Wycliffe donated 12 holiday baskets complete with a full Thanksgiving meal and a grocery gift card to help families in VB! We are still collecting the same list of food and taking monetary donations for Christmas baskets through December 8th. Pick up a food list on the side Narthex Table.

All are invited to help decorate the church for the Advent-Christmas season. Drop in anytime between 9:30-11:30am. The various committees of the church will work on particular spots (the sanctuary, the narthex, reception area, etc.) so when you arrive, pick a spot and lend a hand!



Celebrate the season of joy & light with the Symphonic Artistry Brass Quintet in a concert of holiday classics & more. FREE to all, but donations will be appreciated. A perfect time to invite a friend to join you at Wycliffe.

What better way to jingle all the way into the holiday spirit than by joining us this evening for a caroling adventure? While this tradition is rooted in our middle and high school youth group, we warmly invite *EVERYONE* in the church family to come along and spread some Christmas cheer! Let's meet at 5 pm at church.





- ADVENT I** Sunday, December 1 | 10:00am worship
"Theres Room for Every Story"
- Deck the Halls!** Saturday, December 7 | 9:30am
- ADVENT II** Sunday, December 8 | 10:00am worship
"God Meets Us in Our Fears"; featuring the Wycliffe Youth
4:00pm - Holiday Brass (free concert)
5:00PM - Christmas Caroling
led by the church's youth, all ages are invited to spread joy & caroling
- ADVENT III** Sunday, December 15 | 10:00am worship
"We Choose a Better Way"; featuring all children in a Christmas pageant
11:00AM - Fellowship Christmas Cookie Swap
- ADVENT IV** Sunday, December 22 | 10:00am worship
5:00PM - Yuletide, Tunes, & Tastings
join us at Ballyhoos with the Elizabeth River Boys for tunes and tastings
- CHRISTMAS EVE** Tuesday, Dec24 | 3:00pm- Children's Service
featuring the traditional "Christmas Blessing" for each child
Tuesday, Dec24 | 5:00pm- Candlelight, Carols & Communion
- THE FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS** Sunday, December 29 | 10:00am
"God Dwells With Us"
- EPIPHANY** Sunday, December 5 | 10:00am worship
"We Keep Seeking"; pick your star word 2025
- "WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS"** Monday, January 6 | 11:00am

